

MANAGEMENT ALTERNATIVES ADDRESSED IN THE INRMPs CONTINUED

USARAK’s continuing need to train in a realistic environment; maintain local community needs; and comply with other laws and regulations, including the Sikes Act Improvement Act (SAIA) of 1997.

The preferred alternative is to implement the INRMPs for Fort Greely, Fort Richardson, and Fort Wainwright, Alaska, over the 2002–2006 planning period. The proposed action involves the implementation of the management objectives listed in INRMP chapters 3–7 regarding ecosystem, physical resources, biological resources, social resources, and support resources management.

Under the no action alternative, currently funded management objectives would remain in effect, and the management objectives proposed in the 2002–2006 INRMPs would not be implemented. The existing conditions at Fort Greely, Fort Richardson, and Fort Wainwright would continue as the status quo as described in Chapter 2. Development and consideration of a no action alternative is required by NEPA and serves as a benchmark against which proposed federal actions can be evaluated.

OPPORTUNITIES TO REVIEW DRAFT INRMPs

Various opportunities exist for the public to review the draft INRMPs and EAs. Interested parties are invited to submit, in writing, comments or objections they have regarding the proposed action during the 30-day public review period. The review period will **begin July 2, 2001 and end August 1, 2001**. Comments received will be reviewed, and relevant issues will be addressed and incorporated into a revised document. Copies of the documents are available for on-site review beginning July 2, 2001 at the following locations:

Local Libraries

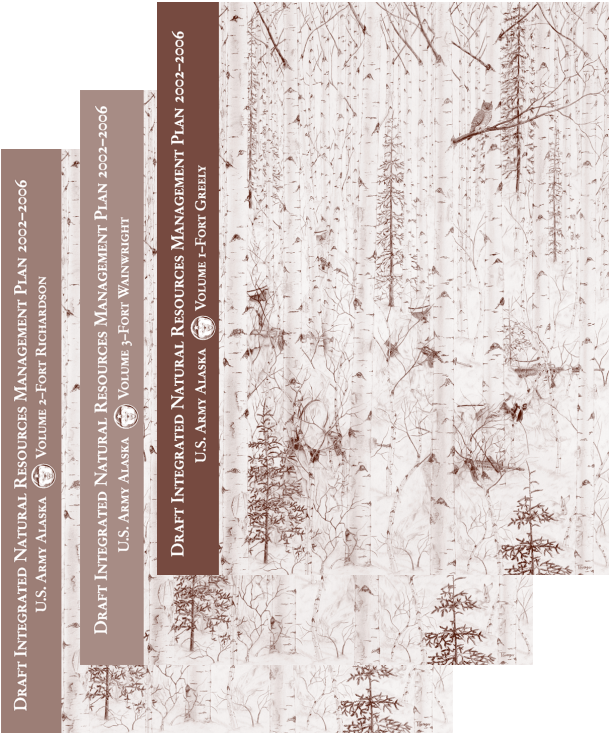
- ❖ Noel Wien Public Library in Fairbanks
- ❖ North Pole Public Library in North Pole
- ❖ Delta Community Library in Delta Junction
- ❖ Z.J. Loussac Public Library in Anchorage
- ❖ Alaska Resource Library and Information Service (ARLIS) in Anchorage
- ❖ Chugiak/Eagle River Public Library in Eagle River

Environmental Offices at Each Post

- ❖ 3023 Engineer Place at Fort Wainwright
- ❖ Airfield Hangar at Fort Greely
- ❖ 724 Quartermaster Road at Fort Richardson

U.S. Army Alaska’s Conservation Web Site

- ❖ <http://www.usarak.army.mil/conservation>



DRAFT INRMPs REVIEW SCHEDULE

A 30-day public review period will **begin July 2, 2001 and end August 1, 2001**. Comments will be accepted by mail, phone, fax, e-mail, and through the use of the web site.



Please mail your comments post marked by August 1, 2001 to:

Carrie Barta
Directorate of Public Works
ATTN: APVR-WPW-EV
1060 Gaffney Road #6500
Fort Wainwright, AK 99703-6500

Or call:

Fort Wainwright • (907) 353-9507
Fort Greely • (907) 873-1614
Fort Richardson • (907) 384-3074

Or fax to: (907) 353-9867, ATTN: Carrie Barta

Or send via e-mail to: carrie.barta@wainwright.army.mil

Or access the conservation web site at: <http://www.usarak.army.mil/conservation>

INTRODUCING U.S. ARMY ALASKA’S CONSERVATION WEB SITE

Conservation awareness is crucial for conducting natural resources management. It provides military personnel and the public with insights into Fort Greely, Fort Richardson, and Fort Wainwright’s natural environments and conservation challenges. Public outreach and education also promotes awareness of various environmental projects and the rationale behind them. USARAK has developed a web site to provide easier public access to environmental and regulatory documents for review, department policies, recreational access permits, natural resources use permits, and maps. Access the conservation web site at <http://www.usarak.army.mil/conservation> to review the draft 2002–2006 INRMPs.

SUMMARY OF QUESTIONNAIRE RESPONSES RECEIVED IN APRIL, 2001

QUESTIONNAIRE - You Can Participate in the Army's Planning Process

The U.S. Army Alaska needs your help in updating the Forts Greely, Richardson, and Wainwright Integrated Natural Resources Management Plans for 2002-2006. The purpose of these plans is to ensure long-term natural resource productivity in order for the Army to achieve its military mission and to provide land use opportunities to the local community. The Army would like to know what natural resource issues are important to you. Your answers will help in the development of management alternatives. Please take a few minutes to complete the following survey. Please return completed survey no later than April 15, 2001.

What area do you use most frequently? Check the boxes that apply.

Fort Greely	West of the Delta River	East of the Delta River	Main Post
	North Post		South Post
Fort Richardson			
Fort Wainwright	Tanana Flats	Yukon Training Area	Main Post

What activities do you conduct on military lands? List activities in the boxes that apply.

Fort Greely	West of the Delta River	East of the Delta River	Main Post
	North Post		South Post
Fort Richardson			
Fort Wainwright	Tanana Flats	Yukon Training Area	Main Post

What do you think about current land management at Forts Greely, Richardson and Wainwright? Provide comments in the boxes below.

Fort Greely	Fort Richardson	Fort Wainwright

Information gathering is designed to be an early, open, public process for determining the scope and significance of issues to be addressed in a plan such as an INRMP. In February 2001, USARAK distributed questionnaires to obtain information and ideas from the public. USARAK received numerous responses. We thank all those who took the time to respond. The majority of responses indicated that hunting and fishing are the top two recreational activities conducted on USARAK lands. Comments received to date emphasize the need to address the amount and types of public access, the use of controlled burns in the Tanana Flats, and to evaluate the hunting, trapping, and fishing (HTF) permit system. USARAK also heard concerns about the presence and removal of garbage. USARAK considered the issues and developed alternatives based on these comments.

Mailing List Reply Card

If you received this newsletter by mail, you are already on the mailing list. If you would like to be removed from the mailing list or receive past issues of the newsletter, please complete this reply card and mail to:

Carrie Barta
Directorate of Public Works
ATTN: APVR-WPW-EV
1060 Gaffney Road #6500
Fort Wainwright, AK 99703-6500

Name: _____

Organization: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

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You may also submit your mailing requests, obtain past newsletter issues, or find additional information about all three posts by contacting:

Fort Greely Ellen Clark Phone: 907-873-1614 E-mail: ellen.clark@wainwright.army.mil	Fort Richardson Gary Larsen Phone: 907-384-3074 E-mail: gary.larsen@richardson.army.mil	Fort Wainwright Carrie Barta Phone: 907-353-9507 E-mail: carrie.barta@wainwright.army.mil
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Or access the USARAK conservation web site at: <http://www.usarak.army.mil/conservation>

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U.S. ARMY ALASKA

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IN THIS ISSUE: Draft INRMPs Available for Public Review

This newsletter, the second in a series of public outreach methods, is designed to keep you informed of U.S. Army Alaska’s (USARAK) updates to the 2002–2006 Integrated Natural Resources Management Plans (INRMPs).



Separate plans are being prepared for Fort Greely, Fort Richardson, and Fort Wainwright to ensure sound management of natural resources and to uphold the military mission. This edition of the newsletter announces the availability of the draft INRMPs for public review and outlines the review schedule and locations. In addition, steps taken by the Army to comply with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) are explained.

THE NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ACT AND THE INRMPs GOALS

The potential environmental effects associated with the implementation of an INRMP have been assessed in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and Army Regulation, 200-2 (*Environmental Effects of Army Actions*). NEPA requires federal agencies to consider the environmental consequences of proposed major federal actions. The premise of NEPA is to provide environmental information to the public before decisions are made and actions are taken.

The requirements of AR200-2 will be addressed through the preparation of an Environmental Assessment (EA), which discusses the potential effects of implementing an Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan on USARAK lands. In an effort to follow Army guidelines recommending concurrent preparation of the INRMP and its associated NEPA analysis, USARAK has incorporated the components of an EA into the INRMP to create a single document. The resulting “planning assessment” includes a comprehensive description, analysis, and evaluation of all environmental components of USARAK. Additionally, it identifies existing natural resource practices and can be used as an effective tool for future planning and decision making.

The EA component examines the Army’s preferred alternative and a no action alternative, and discusses each one’s potential environmental effects. In addition, the existing environment is described and used as a measure against which to analyze the proposed action. Thus, the potential beneficial and adverse effects associated with the proposal are determined.

MANAGEMENT ALTERNATIVES ADDRESSED IN THE INRMPs

NEPA, Army regulation, and other laws require that USARAK examine alternatives for future management of military lands. The alternatives must be consistent with the military mission; provide for

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